

April 1996

VOL. 3 ISSUE 4

GROUND UP

ABOVE GROUND

Your Source for News & Views in and around the Lehigh Valley



DIAMONZ



SUSAN JEREMY

appearing LIVE

THURSDAY
APRIL 25TH

TICKETS: \$5.00 - In Advance
\$7.00 - At the Door

SAMBUCA NITE KARAOKE

Thursday, April 11

featuring

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Be the first to race
your shot over the
Sambuca Finish Line!



DIAMONZ

Easter Party

Sunday, April 7

- Receive candy from The Easter Bunny - 5 PM
- Join in the Egg Hunt - 7 PM
- Bonnet Parade - 9 PM
- Serving Easter Dinner beginning at 5 PM

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ABOVE GROUND

PO Box 1656

Allentown, PA 18105-1656

Editor Speaks!

Just before this issue was heading off to print, we realized that a FACT (Fighting AIDS Continuously Together) fundraising event was scheduled towards the end of the month. Unfortunately we didn't have a date for you at this time, and we couldn't contact anyone (at least not at 3:45 am).

The event is Macy's Day, and it is a day where you can save money while shopping at Macy's while raising money for a worthy organization. FACT will be a participating organization in this event, and will be selling tickets in the area. If you are interested in doing some shopping (and who isn't!) while helping to raise money for FACT, please call them at their offices at 610-820-5519; or ask around at your favorite Valley Clubs for more information. Imagine shopping and raising money for a worthy cause at the same time ... who says you can't have your cake and eat it too!

On the Cover

A group of about twenty people from DIAMONZ bar, in Bethlehem, wave to the cheering crowds at the 1996 Allentown Saint Patrick's Day Parade. Although many onlookers may not have been aware of it, this was the first time that a gay/lesbian establishment had an organized float in the event. Many local "family" members also joined the crowd of spectators to cheer on the DIAMONZ gang from the sidelines. Shown are from left to right; Candy, Mary & Lenora.

Cover Photo: Gary Berger

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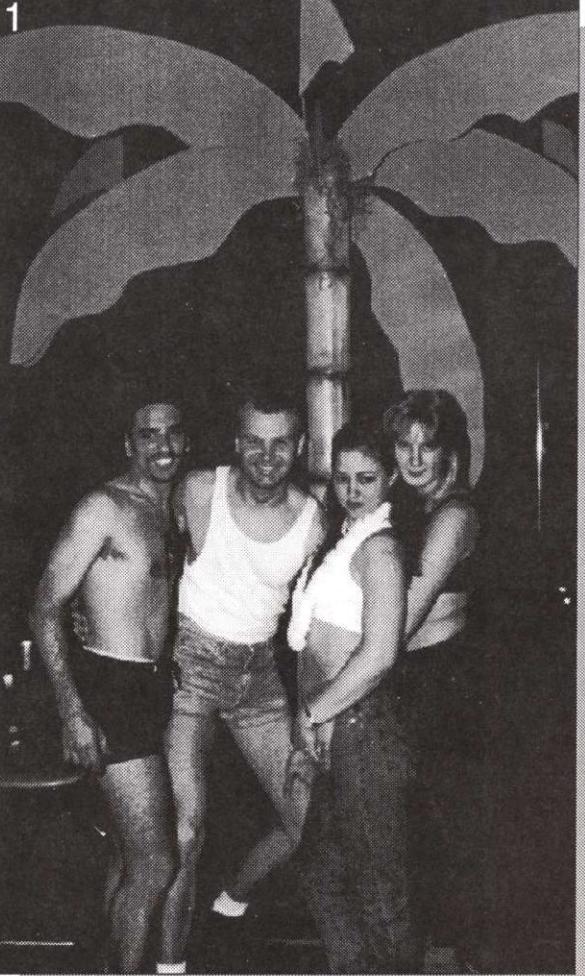
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The businesses who advertise in AboveGround magazine make it possible to bring it to you each month. Just as they support our community and this publication, we urge you to support their businesses and to let them know that you saw their ad here, in AboveGround magazine.

④ A Look Back



1



2

1, 2, & 3:
Stonewall hosted its Annual Beach Party on Friday, March 22. The Hawaiian theme brought out many festive partiers, many of which were dressed in beach attire.

4, 5, & 6:

Members of the community were out to see the Diamonz float in the Allentown St. Patrick's Day Parade, held on Sunday, March 17. Even staff members from the "sister" bars were on hand to cheer the Diamonz crew as they passed by.



3



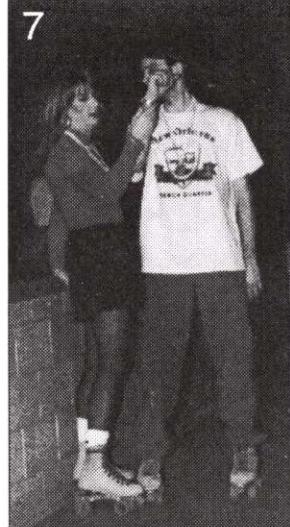
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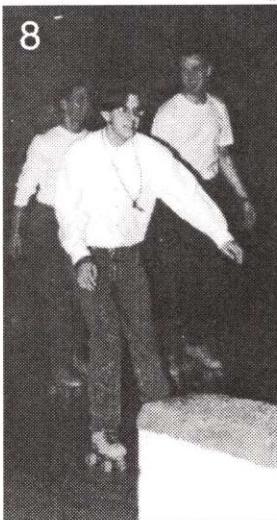
4

7 & 8:

The crowd was "spinning its wheels" at the 1st monthly skating party hosted by the League of Gay and Lesbian Voters. As their ad says, "There's something Queer About Tuesday!" Based on the nice crowd, it would appear to be true!



8



Have a snapshot from a recent event that you'd like seen in **AboveGround**?

Is there something coming up that our photographer just shouldn't miss?

For details and Guidelines, Call: 610-821-1321

6



The Scarab

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MONDAY, APRIL 8th
**Fabulous DRAG!
EASTER SHOW**

**Check Out
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- Drink Special 10-12
- DJ 10pm-2am

Tuesdays:

- Drink Special 10-12
- Karaoke 10pm-2am

Thursdays:

- Drink Special 10-12
- Oldies Night

Wednesdays:

- Special Happy Hour
- Coupon Night

Fridays and Saturdays:

- Special Happy Hour 8pm - 10pm
- DJ 10pm - 2am



724 Franklin St. Reading, PA
(Free Underground Parking across the street!)
HOURS: Monday through Saturday 8:00 PM - 2:00 AM

Coming Events

DATE	TYPE	EVENT	TIME	LOCATION
!!! CALL !!!	***/F	DISCOUNT Shopping at Macy's for F.A.C.T.	CALL	CALL 610-820-5519
April 3	D	TINSEL GARLAND	12AM	STONEWALL , Allentown
3	ST	HOT MALE STRIPPERS	11PM	CARTWHEEL , New Hope
3	MEET	MEETING - PRIDE OF THE LEHIGH VALLEY	7PM	Grace Cov. Fell. , Allentown
4	***/F	Dame Betty's Easter Parade & Bonnet Contest	11:30PM	STONEWALL , Allentown
5	L	STEPHEN TIPPET JAZZ TRIO	10PM	STONEWALL , Allentown
6	L	CHERYL SKYE	9PM	DIAMONZ , Bethlehem
6	***	EASTER EGG HUNT	2PM	CANDIDA , Allentown
6	L	MICHAEL OGBORN	10PM	STONEWALL , Allentown
7	***/P	EASTER PARTY	CALL	DIAMONZ , Bethlehem
8	D	FABULOUS DRAG EASTER SHOW	CALL	SCARAB , Reading
10	D	MAXI CARTER & The Girls Behind The Wall	12AM	STONEWALL , Allentown
10	D	TINSEL GARLAND	11PM	CARTWHEEL , New Hope
11	B	SAMBUCa KARAOKE CHARIOT RACES	CALL	DIAMONZ , Bethlehem
13	L	DAMZELS	9PM	DIAMONZ , Bethlehem
13	***/F	MUSIC THAT MATTERS for F.A.C.T.	10PM	CANDIDA , Allentown
13	L	MICHAEL FERRERI	10PM	STONEWALL , Allentown
14	ST	THE DREAM TEAM MALE REVIEW	CALL	STONEWALL , Allentown
14	***/P	"LADIES" PARTY	3PM	CARTWHEEL , New Hope
17	ST	HOT MALE STRIPPERS	11PM	CARTWHEEL , New Hope
17	D	TINSEL GARLAND	12AM	STONEWALL , Allentown
18	S	"GOD SAVE THE QUEEN" SITCOM	11:30PM	STONEWALL , Allentown
18	F	BINGO for FACT's Family Support Services	8-11PM	STONEWALL , Allentown
19	L	ELAINE PAXSON w/ Christian Daizey	10PM	STONEWALL , Allentown
20	F	BINGO for L.V. Gay & Lesbian Task Force	3PM	DIAMONZ , Bethlehem
20	L	KATE & CJ	9PM	DIAMONZ , Bethlehem
20	L	MICHAEL OGBORN	10PM	STONEWALL , Allentown
21	F	Fundraiser- League of Gay & Lesbian Voters	3-6PM	Monterey Cafe , Allentown
22	***/D	The 3rd DIVAS TO THE DANCEFLOOR	9PM	The Woodlands, Wilkes-Barre
22	***	DUELING DJ's - Dean & Geoffe	CALL	STONEWALL , Allentown
23	***/SO	GAY & LESBIAN ROLLERSKATING	7:30-10:30PM	Skateaway Rink , Allentown
24	D	"LES GIRL" with JODY LYNN	11:30PM	STONEWALL , Allentown
24	D	TINSEL GARLAND	11PM	CARTWHEEL , New Hope
25	S	"GOD SAVE THE QUEEN" SITCOM	11:30PM	STONEWALL , Allentown
25	***/S	SUSAN JEREMY	9PM	DIAMONZ , Bethlehem
26	***/D	EVA THE DEVA in her Murder Mystery Show	11:30PM	SELECTIONS , Wilkes-Barre
27	L	LAURA RICCABONO	9PM	DIAMONZ , Bethlehem
27	***/S	THE OXY-MORONS (serious comedians)	8PM	Open Space Gallery,Allentown
27	***/SP	AFTERNOON POOL TOURNAMENT	12PM	B-TLS , Harrisburg

P - PARTY L - LOUNGE/ LIVE VOCAL ST - STRIP SHOW S - MISC. SHOW SO - SOCIAL EVENT
D - DRAG SHOW F - FUND-RAISER * - SPECIAL EVENT B - BAR PROMO SP - SPORTS EVENT**

Note: The Coming Events section is provided as a voluntary service to the community. Due to the chance of typographical error, schedule changes, or inadequate source information, we strongly suggest that you use it as a guide, and call the individual organizations for more information and/or confirmation.

goin' on **Weekly**

SUNDAY

- KARAOKE / DIAMONZ / 9PM-2AM
- KARAOKE / STONEWALL / 10PM-2AM
- ELAINE PAXSON / CARTWHEEL

MONDAY

- ALL AGE NIGHT / STONEWALL / 10PM-2AM
- DRAG SEARCH w/ Monica Rey / CARTWHEEL
- New Release Video Night / SELECTIONS

TUESDAY

- KARAOKE / DIAMONZ / 9PM
- KARAOKE / SCARAB / 10pm-2am
- GIRLS NIGHT OUT/ CARTWHEEL
- KARAOKE / SELECTIONS

WEDNESDAY

- COUPON NIGHT / SCARAB
- MOVIE NIGHT / DIAMONZ
- POOL LEAGUE / CANDIDA 8PM
- FlashBack 80's Video / SELECTIONS

THURSDAY

- POOL LEAGUE / DIAMONZ / 8PM
- KARAOKE / DIAMONZ / 9PM-2AM
- OLDIES NIGHT / SCARAB
- KARAOKE / CANDIDA / 10PM-2AM
- CLASSIC DISCO / Cartwheel / 9pm
- Backgammon & Game Night / B-TLS
- COUNTRY WESTERN / SELECTIONS

FRIDAY

- Country-Western/DiamonZ/7:30-10:30PM
- DJ Request Night/DiamonZ/10:30-2:00
- MICHAEL FERRERI/CARTWHEEL

SATURDAY

- ELAINE PAXSON / CARTWHEEL

MONDAY, APRIL 22ND
at the Woodlands Inn & Resort

The 3RD
Annual **DIVAS to the
DANCEFLOOR**
FEMALE IMPERSONATOR REVIEW

★ STARRING ★

**EVA
THE
DEVA**

Special Guest Emcee



Celebrity Performances

by



with Puppets as
Barbra Streisand



from the Stonewall
as Grace Jones

**&
MORE...**



TICKETS: \$6.00 In Advance

\$8.00 At the Door

DOORS OPEN 7:00 PM

SHOWTIME 9:00 PM

For Info Call: (717) 824-9831

Special Guest DJ

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PETRILLA**

**Come Join Us for a
Night Out with the Stars!**



X-er-cise

The American Health magazine of June, 1995 features an article on the Psychological Benefits of Exercise. According to this article, the mind benefits as much from exercise as the body does. While exercise keeps the body fit and toned, the heart strong and the muscles clear of tension, research shows that regular workouts lift depression, banish stress and sharpen the mind. Regular physical activity also improves alertness, energy and mood. The article goes on to report that "even more important, long-term exercisers seem to possess an overall sense of well-being that extends into other areas of their life."

Creativity is yet another benefit. exercise psychologist Joan Gondola of New York City's Baruch College found that students who were regular exercisers scored significantly higher on a standard psychological test of creativity than non-exercisers.

Mental skills are also kept in shape when we keep in shape. Mental skills such as reaction time and short-term memory tend to decline with aging. research is showing that long-term exercise may

ADS THAT WORK

As Hard as You Do !

AboveGround
MAGAZINE

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very likely head off this decline (no pun intended).

One of the reasons that the cognitive skills in the elderly may be enhanced through regular exercise is because the exercise assures adequate blood-flow and oxygen to the brain and may slow the cell death that accompanies normal aging. We all know that exercise triggers the release of the powerful neurotransmitters in the brain. These potent chemicals are known to boost alertness. Exercise acts as a natural Prozac which means it boosts the brain levels of the neurotransmitters that elevate mood. According to the article research, depressed people have abnormally low levels of these chemicals. Combining exercise and antidepressants can help these people correct the physiological imbalance of their body's chemistry.

So ... how much is enough? What about those people who seem addicted to exercising? Perhaps they are just that. There are people

who become so dependent on the psychological and physical benefits that they are considered addicted. Some of the signs to look at to evaluate your level of dependence:

1. Do you feel compelled to exercise daily, in spite of an injury or an illness?
2. Do you organize your life around exercise?
3. Do you feel guilty or get irritable when you do not exercise for a few days?
4. Do you experience depression, sleep disturbance or a general loss of interest in life when you're forced to quit exercising for more than a week?

Many exercise addicts are people who are striving for perfection (as opposed to excellence). They strive for it through their body because they believe they've failed to achieve it in other areas of their life. researchers at the University of Arizona found "parallels between the personalities of compulsive male runners and anorexic women. Both had unrealistically high expectations of themselves, an unusual ability to deny pain, and higher levels of repressed anger."

Compulsive behavior is fed by obsessive thoughts which are critical and condemnatory. The thoughts push the person into behavior to prove the thoughts are not accurate. The person needs to see some tangible evidence that they can achieve, that they can "make it" in some area. And their body is the vehicle they use for evidence. Their perfectionistic thoughts are the gear shift that sets in motion the mind's wheels. The exercise is the body's engine. The body's appearance is the year, make and model of the vehicle. What are you driving?!

Thursdays Just Got Exciting!

**THURSDAY
DANCE !**

Where You pick
the Music

Request Night
with a Bent!

**SCHNAPPS
BLAST !**

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Only \$1

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Affordable
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Weekends
5:30 - 11:00

**Elaine
Paxson**
Saturdays
& Sundays
9:30 PM



CLUB EVENTS

**DRAG
SEARCH**
with
MONICA REY
Every Monday

**MALE
STRIPPERS**
Wed., April 3 & 17

**TINSEL
GARLAND**
Wed., April 10 & 24

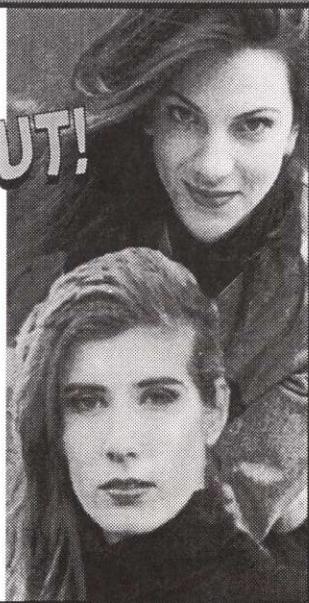
**CLASSIC
DISCO**
Every Thursday

GIRLS NITE OUT!

Every
Tuesday

- NO COVER CHARGE
- \$1 DOMESTIC BEERS

*Come on out and relax
with your honey or . . .
meet her here tonight!*



LADIES PARTY

Sunday, April 14

- Doors Open at 3:00 PM
- 1 Hour Open Bar
- Complimentary Buffet

It's all happening at...

CARTWHEEL

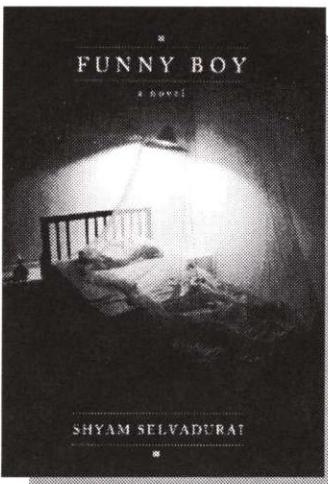
of course!

ROUTE 202

NEW HOPE PA

215-862-0880

by William Benson



BOOK REVIEW

Funny Boy, by Shyam Selvadurai.
New York:
William Morrow & Company, Inc.,
1996. \$23.00

Funny Boy is the first novel by Shyam Selvadurai, a new gay writer from Sri Lanka who lives in Canada. As with almost all first novels, it is a very thinly disguised autobiography; and it is not so

much a work of art as it is an artfully made work of private narration and confession.

The title *Funny Boy* is something we can relate to, that is, "funny" meaning someone who is different. The book begins with memories of when the author was about seven years old, and used to be the leader in various theatrical, make-believe games played with the girls. His dressing up as a bride for a mock-wedding, and his naive dreams of romance quickly become shattered, as he finally discovers that he is not really a part of the girls' world, nor does he fit into the boys' world of cricket. The real world of what a hetero-sexual wedding actually means becomes clear in the following chapter, when an Aunt must break off her romance with her true love in order to marry a man deemed acceptable by her family for an arranged marriage.

As the narrative continues, we learn more of the ethnic and racial conflicts between the Tamils and the Sinhalese in Sri Lanka, told through the two examples of a journalist (a family friend and former lover of the author's mother) being killed; and an employee in his father's hotel (the son of his best friend during childhood) who has dangerous political associations.

The last two chapters of the book are when the author is in his mid-teens. He is sent to a very rigid, private boys' school by his family in order to "get straight," and it is there that he has his first sexual experiences with one of his fellow classmates. The final chapter is written as a brief selection of diary entries, which relate increasing social tension, the burning of his family's home and their escape; the murder of his grandparents; and their final decision to emigrate to

Canada as refugees in 1983.

The book is well structured, and Selvadurai has a fine sense of rhythm in his prose. Sometimes his vocabulary sounds like someone who has read too many books, and there are some clichéd expressions; but again, this is a first novel, and he is still in the process of finding his own voice. What I miss is a sense of landscape and geography, as well as concrete information on just who the Tamils and Sinhalese are. I am, like most Americans, ignorant of Sri Lanka, its culture, its people, and its politics. I would wish to have found out more of this from reading this novel.

The combination of a gay "coming-out" story with the elements of cross-cultural and multi-ethnic/racial conflicts might almost make this an example of formulaic, middle-brow post-modernism. Certainly, similar novels have appeared during the past few years with these familiar elements, which seem to be all too comfortably acceptable to contemporary critics and readers. However, Shyam Selvadurai has a very elegant, emotionally sensitive, and discretely detailed sense of style. Most importantly, he actually has something to say, apart from being merely entertaining.

This is not a great novel, but it is nonetheless a rewarding experience. At 305 pages, it can easily be read in two brief, leisurely sittings. There is much that is universal in being gay, learning of ones difference, and accepting what and who one is. Shyam Selvadurai's writing has a gentleness and compassion that is not only refreshing, but needed in our own too brittle, Western society. This book holds much promise for a great literary career, and I can only hope that as he matures

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as an artist, his compassion will blossom into wisdom.

If anyone is further interested, the author will be doing a short reading and book-signing at A Different Light in New York on April 3 (7:00 p.m.); and at Giovanni's Room in Philadelphia on April 8 (7:00 p.m.).

'AMERICA'S PRINTER' REFUSES TO PRINT BROCHURE PROMOTING HOMOSEXUALITY: THE SECRET A CHILD DARE NOT TELL

SAN RAFAEL, Calif., Feb. 29, 1996

Saying that it "doesn't believe in homosexuality," U.S. Press, which bills itself as 'America's Color Printer,' has refused to print a brochure promoting the book Homosexuality: The Secret A Child Dare Not Tell. The decision was relayed to the book's publisher, Rafael Press, by George Limbocker, an account representative for the Valdosta, Georgia-based printing concern. Mr. Limbocker said the decision was made after conferring with the owners of U.S. Press.

"It is against our company policy," Mr. Limbocker said. "We are Christians. We don't believe in homosexuality. We don't print nude bodies or explicit sex." (Neither the book, nor its promotional materials contain nude bodies or explicit sex. In fact, the book's cover, which is featured on the brochure, is a reproduction of Mary Cassatt's painting, "Two Children at the Seashore," from the National Gallery of Art. Both of the little girls in the painting are fully clothed in dresses and pinwfores.)

Homosexuality: The Secret A Child Dare Not Tell is written by Mary Ann Cantwell, a 74-year-old mother of ten children and a former teacher of special education. Written primarily for parents of young children, the book is based on Mary Ann's early parenting relationship with her gay son, Mike, now 40. It tells of her poignant inner journey from pain and guilt to understanding and activism. Part memoir, part documentation of the secret shame that gay children frequently carry in the family, Homosexuality: The Secret A Child Dare Not Tell sets forth a startling thesis: most children know from a very early age - sometimes as young as five or six - that they are somehow different in their sexual orientation. The book encourages parents to

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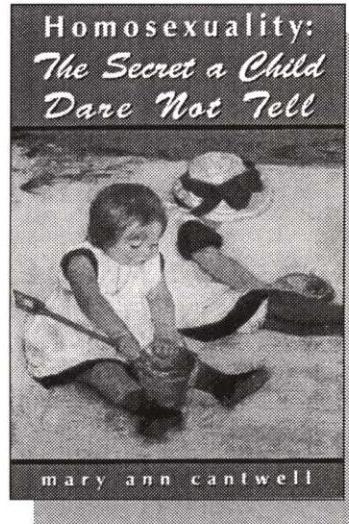
sensitively "tune in" to the nuances of their child's behavior and to lovingly and openly respond to their child's early development around sexual orientation.

Mary Griffith, perhaps America's best known parent of a gay child (she is the mother of Bobby Griffith, the tragic subject of the best selling Prayers for Bobby from HarperSanFrancisco), calls Homosexuality: The Secret A Child Dare Not Tell, "a wake-up call to parents."

"Most of the time, parents think homosexuality happens overnight, and that their son or daughter can make a choice in the matter. Mary Ann's book brings parents and teachers back to the realization that homosexuality is usually a natural unfolding that occurs during the early years of childhood," Mary Griffith said.

AboveGround encourages its readers to make their feelings known about this matter. You can register your protest in the following ways:

1. Call the printing company at 1-800-631-8505 to register a protest.
2. Write to Mr. Limbocker at U.S. Press, 1628A James P. Rodgers Dr., Valdosta, GA, 31601.
3. Write a letter of protest to the editor of the Atlanta Journal & Constitution, at 72 Marietta St., N.W., Atlanta, GA 30303.
4. Write a letter of protest to civil rights reporter Hollis Towns, at The Atlanta Journal & Constitution.
5. Write a letter of protest to the editor of the Valdosta Daily Times, 201 N. Troup Street, Valdosta, GA, 31601.



Where the Big Boys Play !

Thursday, April 4 • 11:30 PM



Dame Betty's EASTER PARADE & BONNET CONTEST

featuring a bevy
of Easter Beauties!

A benefit for
AIDS Services Center
\$2 donation

Sunday, April 14

THE DREAM TEAM

hot male review

Thursday, April 18 • 8-11 PM

BINGO FOR FACT

A benefit for F.A.C.T.'s
Family Support services

Thursday, April 18 • 11:30 PM

"GOD SAVE THE QUEEN"



The newest Live Sitcom
from the Enigma Players
Continuing 4/25, 5/2 & 5/9

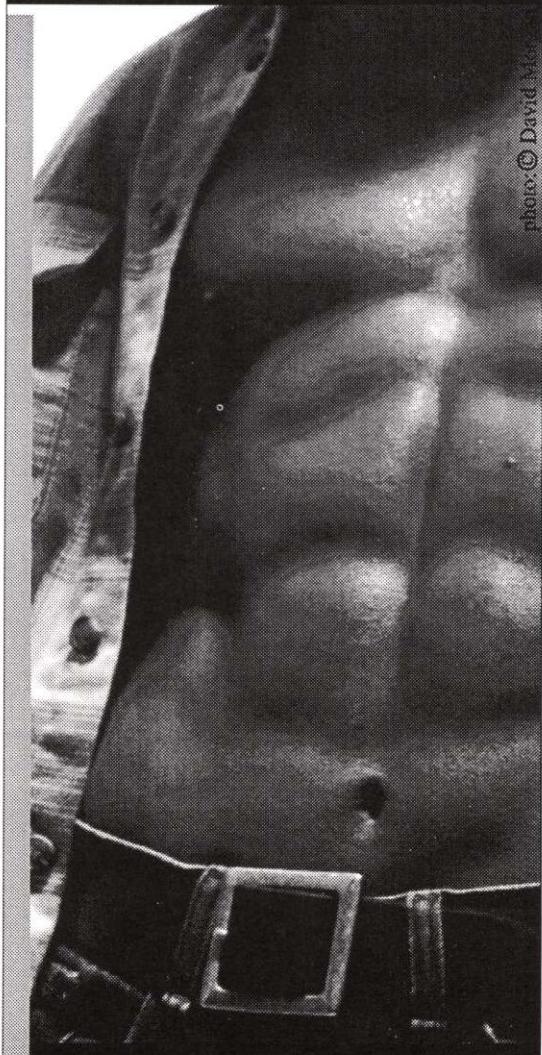


photo: © David M.

STONEWALL

28-30 N. 10th Street Allentown, PA 18101 610-432-0215

Dance



Eat



Play

GET THE VOTER'S GUIDE...

AND VOTE !

By Liz Bradbury

The League of Gay and Lesbian Voters' Voter's Guides come out in the first week of April and will be available for free in Lehigh Valley locations. The Voter's Guide is a bipartisan publication with information on all candidates running for office in the State.

Each candidate received a survey from the League questioning their stand on Gay/Les/Bi and Aids related issues. The information from these surveys and additional information from the League's data base, including the voting record of incumbents on Gay/Les/Bi and Aids related issues, is detailed in the Guide.

The Voter's Guide is a valuable tool. Read the Guide carefully and make a list of the candidates running in your District. Take the list and your Voter's Guide directly into the voter's booth with you because sometimes it's hard to remember all the names and their political platforms. Voting along party lines won't work because this is the Primary and you only are voting within one party.

As you go into the polls there may be candidates outside campaigning for your last minute decision. Here is your chance to do some great lobbying work. March right up to them with your guide and look the candidate up. This way the candidate or the campaign worker will see the gay and lesbian vote in action. Even if they "forgot" to return the survey they won't forget that they surely lost your vote by not sending it in. Mark your calendar now - Primary Election April 23rd - and also plan to Meet the Candidates at our Voter's League fund raiser at the Monterey Cafe on Sunday April 21 from 3 to 6 pm. A strong attendance shows candidates we are a serious and organized constituency.

Voter's Guides will be available in the Lehigh Valley at the Stonewall, Diamonx, the Book Rack (Emmaus), Drop Me A Line, Open Space Gallery, the Archive Shop (Easton) and at your local Gay friendly Churches and bookstores. Guides will also be available at the Monterey Cafe on April 21. If you would like more information about the Voter's Guide or the League of Gay and Lesbian Voter's call us at 610-432-5449.

Liz Bradbury is the Coordinator for the Lehigh Valley Chapter of the League of Gay and Lesbian Voters.

ABOVE V GROUND

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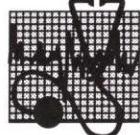
Dr. John O. Cochran

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THE WISDOM OF THE BODY

Is health merely feeling good? If you come down with a cold, a headache, a neck or back pain or some other condition today, were you really healthy yesterday? Of course not! Health is much more than our superficial feelings-it is physical, chemical, and emotional balance.

ADAPTATION

So many forms of stress threaten our balance: the bacteria, virus, pollen, mold, and fungi in the air; cancer cells, with their deranged genetic instructions that constantly arise within; pollution, and chemicals; cuts, bumps, and bruises; school, work, marriage, babies, bills, a mortgage-and we must adapt to them all. For if we did not.....a hot summer day would boil our brains; a winter night would freeze us solid; every inhalation would bring massive infection; tumors would overwhelm us; a small cut would drain all our blood. Without adaptation our hearts would continue pounding after a workout; alcohol and other drugs would never break down, and we'd stay intoxicated for life; brain chemicals would never deactivate: an adrenaline high or a

moment's anxiety would last a lifetime.....

Thankfully, we usually adapt to life's stresses because many mechanisms are built into us for this purpose. They're as simple as shivering and sweating, and as elaborate as our immune system engulfing a cancer cell or bacterium; they are as dramatic as an adrenaline rush when confronting danger, or as ungraceful as gagging. They all say the same thing: Survive! Survive changes in the weather; survive bacterial invasion, survive pollution; survive emotional heartbreak, survive excitement; survive work; survive in the big city-and thrive!

Viewed from this perspective, symptoms such as fevers, chills, vomiting, fatigue, sneezing, pain, anxiety, anger, and others-although unpleasant-aren't bad, rather, they are signs that the body is struggling to regain health and balance.

OUR INNATE INTELLIGENCE

What does adaptation look like inside us? It's thousands of different chemicals being balanced every second, millions of cells dying every second, millions being born every second and billions of nerves firing messages every second. Yesterday's lunch is somehow turned into eye, muscle, heart, bone, skin, and blood; damaged tissues are being repaired; blood vessel linings are being smoothed; germs and tumors are being destroyed. All while we read a book or sleep or run a race.



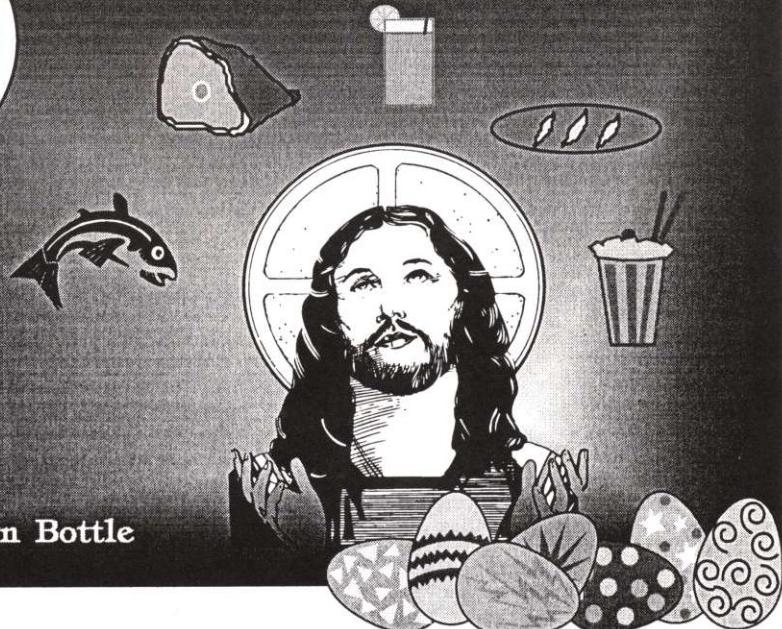
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Chiropractic refers to the body's organizational ability as its Innate Intelligence, or simply "Innate." Our Innate Intelligence organizes our body into a complicated, living, adapting, growing being- without it, each of us would be no more than a formless pile of chemicals worth only a few dollars. All or our lives, we are thinking and acting but at what point do our thoughts convert into action? In the same way, where does our Innate Intelligence touch our physical body? We don't know. It lies somewhere behind our DNA-our genetic "blueprint"-organizing the microscopic world of the cell and the macroscopic world of the entire body made up of thousands of billions of cells. Science has yet to develop the sensitivity to discover that powerful place deep within the human being where wisdom, direction, healing, and intelligence percolate up to our physical existence. It remains a mystery.

But mysteries have clues-and the body is no exception. Our Chiropractors recognize a part of the body that is especially intimate with our Innate: the central nervous system. That system includes the brain, spinal cord, and the billions of nerve fibers that emerge from them. The nervous system touches every nook and cranny of our bodies, and Innate uses this vast communications system to control, coordinate, and organize our billions of parts to create a living, adapting healthy being. This connection is vital, for true health, adaptation, balance, and harmony can emerge only when our Innate Intelligence can communicate with our body without interference or static. A complete break in that communication results in immediate death, a partial break results in a general deterioration of health-or "dis-ease"-wherein we are less alive, and less able to adjust to and cope with life's stresses.

This partial break or interference to our innate link is commonly caused by the vertebral subluxation complex (vsc), also known as spinal nerve stress.

Dr. Cochran is a practicing chiropractor with offices at Valley Plaza, 1874 Catasauqua Rd.

If you have a medical question you would like answered by one of AboveGround's contributing writers, please send it to: "To Your Health" C/o AboveGround Magazine, P.O. Box 1656 Allentown, PA 18105-1656.

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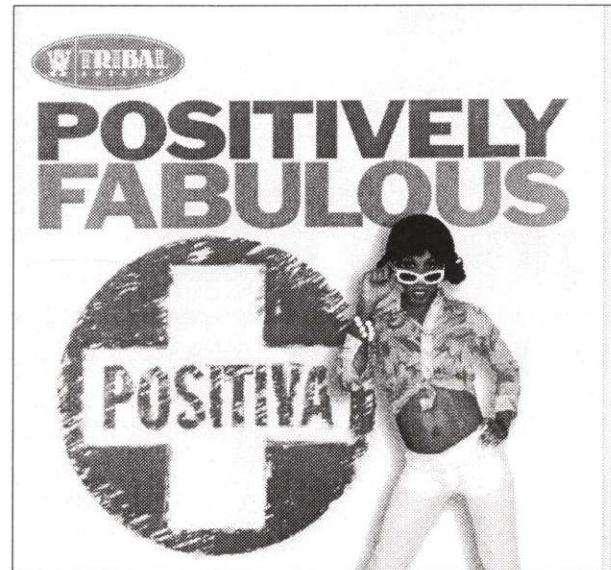


Music

by C.Robert Frank

Title: STEAM
Artist: East 17
Rating: 2 stars

It's not surprising that East 17 is England's latest "new kids on the block." Four young, tan, occasionally tattooed and usually shirtless men crooning would get most young girls' hearts to start a-beating! Just can't wait for that *Tiger Beat* pin-up either. But, will parents of America's teens allow them to listen to sinister lyrics such as "I'll Butter Your Toast If You Lick The Knife"? Will American dance-music lovers (usually gay men and 20-something girls) enjoy lyrics of innocence: "Don't Wanna Do Ya, Just Hold Ya Tight"? Is East 17 marketable, and is their music any Good? While the songs are not free-style, the vocal deliveries sound a bit too much like Stevie B or George LaMont ... not good! While I wouldn't mind seeing the four in certain "tight" positions, their vocal togetherness seems a bit off. If you need to oogle and aagle at their half-naked bodies, you may want to pick up a copy of *Steam* for the photos. Otherwise, the context of the disc is as slender and lanky as their bodies.



Title: POSITIVELY FABULOUS
Artist: Various
Rating: 3 stars

Tribal has been a staple label for DJ's since its inception in 1991. Tribal has offered such unforgettable club anthems as "X", "There Will Come A Day," and "I Won't Waste Your Time." (Well, they're unforgettable to DJ's and Klub Kidz.) Many artists crave a Tribal release for their record, knowing it will receive an instant buzz from the DJ Community. This has given the label worldwide muscle in dance music. Positiva is EMI UK's dance label. While being wildly successful overseas, where dance music is commonly Top 40, EMI has no interest in bringing Positiva state-side. That's where Tribal steps in. Tribal has licensed the Positiva catalog for US. release both as a 12" single and as this CD. Positively Fabulous may be your only opportunity to get last summer's anthems, "Sweetest Day In May" as well as Judy Cheek's "Respect" and "As Long As You're Good To Me" on disc. As a whole, however, this disc may disappoint the Tribal fan. It is more Pop/NRG oriented than Tribal's usual releases. If you picked up LaBouche or Ace Of Base, Positively Fabulous would be a nice compliment to your collection.

DJ's TOP TEN

DJ : Heidi
Club: B-TLS / Harrisburg

1. Santa Maria
TANJANA
2. Missing
EVERYTHING BUT THE GIRL
3. Energy
DEVONE
4. Be My Lover
LA BOUCHE
5. Take A Look
JSON
6. Ain't Nobody
DIANA KING
7. What's Up
DJ MIKO
8. Shoop
WHITNEY HOUSTON
9. Stayin' Alive
N-TRANCE
10. We've Got It Goin On
BACKSTREET BOYS

DJ : Michael DeCero
Club: CARTWHEEL / New Hope

1. Slava Mea
FAITHLESS
2. Giv Me Luv
ALCATRAZ
3. Ain't Nobody
DIANA KING
4. One By One
CHER
5. I Will Survive
DIANA ROSS
6. One More Try
KRISTINE W
7. Sweet Dreams
LA BOUCHE
8. Strange World
KE'
9. Make The World Go Round
SANDY B
10. The Sound
X-PRESS 2

DJ : Dean Walbridge
Club: STONEWALL / Allentown

1. Reap (what you sow)
VERNESSA MITCHELL
2. Movin'
MONÉ
3. Giv Me Luv
ALCATRAZ
4. Hyper-ballad
BJÖRK
5. El Carnival
LATIN KITCHEN
6. Raise Your Hands
CEVIN FISHER
7. Fee Fi Fo Fun
CANDY GIRLS
8. What We Need
(if Madonna calls)
SAM TRAXX
9. Phantasy
XS
10. Who Do U Love
DEBORAH COX

DJ : Mike Tolleson
Club: CANDIDA / Allentown

1. Um, Um, Um, Um, Um, Um
ALDIN BIRDETTE
2. Believe In Yourself
CLINTON DANIEL
3. A Boy Like That
SELENA
4. Movin' Up
DREAMWORLD
5. Reap (what you sow)
VERNESSA MITCHELL
6. Zombie
A.D.A.M. featuring AMY
7. Sweet Dreams
LA BOUCHE
8. Stayin' Alive
N-TRANCE
9. Do What's Good For Me
2 UNLIMITED
10. Movin'
MONÉ

DJ : Lis Flynn
Club: DIAMONZ / Bethlehem

1. Energy
DEVONE
2. Boroquiem Anthem I & II
C+C MUSIC FACTORY
3. Did You Ever Really Love Me
NICKI FRENCH
4. Stayin Alive
N-TRANCE
5. Take A Look
JASON
6. Think Twice
QPM
7. Lucky In Love
ACE OF BASE
8. Imitation Of Life
BILLIE RAY MARTIN
9. Humpin Around (rmx)
BOBBY BROWN
10. I Believe (rmx)
HAPPY CLAPPERS

VIDEO TOP TEN

VJ : Michael Leidy
Club: STONEWALL / Allentown

1. Fee Fi Fo Fum
CANDY GIRLS
2. Love Rendezvous
M PEOPLE
3. Hyper-ballad (ETV bonus mix)
BJÖRK
4. Ain't Nobody (rmx)
DIANA KING
5. If I Were You (rmx)
K.D. LANG
6. Superstar
CAROL JIAN
7. Fingers & Thumbs
ERASURE
8. Beautiful Life
(Visions Lorimar rmx)
ACE OF BASE
9. Running Around Town (rmx)
BILLIE RAY MARTIN
10. T.S.O.P. (Soul Train Line Dance)
M.F.S.B.

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"Barnum"

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Allentown College Theatre**"Oklahoma!"**

April 24 - May 5

For info call: 282-3192

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April 20

Pennsylvania Sinfonia Orchestra

April 27

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Civic Little Theatre**"Death of a Salesman"**

April 19 - 27

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Kutztown University**"Mummenschanz"**

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Lafayette College**"Western Wind"**

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"Ensemble Modern"

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Orpheus**Chamber Orchestra**

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"Antigone"

April 24

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Lehigh University**Shanghai Quartet**

April 21

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Moravian College**"Angel Street"**

April 12

"Musicians from Marlboro"

April 26

For info call: 610-868-8702

Muhlenberg College**Camerata Singers**

April 13

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State Theatre**"Madame Butterfly"**

April 19

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Theatre Outlet**"The B. Weavers"**

April 8

"Happy Days & Krapp's Last Tape"

April 11 - 28

"Wish Upon A Star"

April 15

"Spectre"

April 22

"Broken Art"

April 29

For info call: 610-820-9270

Touchstone Theatre**"Spring Stories"**

April 12 - 14

"Alice of Wonder-bread"

April 30 - May 8

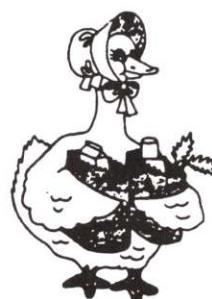
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GOD SAVE THE QUEEN !!

The Stonewall Enigma Players will present their newest show, "God Save The Queen," starting on Thursday, April 18. Writer Jerry Schmidt will also direct this "spoof on the Royal Divorce." The production will feature Enigma Player veterans Tim Galgoci, Matthew Stitzer, James Mulcahy, Dusty Corners (a.k.a. Ellen Ritter), and Stephanie Burke. This is the sixth show for the Enigma Players, and it will take place in episodic format on four consecutive Thursdays starting at 11:30 PM. The Stonewall "Disco Theatre" is located at 28-30 North Tenth Street in Allentown. All four performances are free to the public (21 & over). For more information, please call (610) 432-0215.

DROP BY THE CCM CAFE

The Theatre Outlet's CCM Cafe (formerly Counter-Culture Mondays) continues with their Spring series every Monday night thru April 29.

CCM Cafes are always on Monday, always at 8pm, always just \$5, and always BYOB with gourmet coffee and fresh baked goods available. The Theatre Outlet is at 333 Court Street in the Phoenix Square Building in downtown Allentown.

And finally, another premiere. Award-winning New York/Stroudsburg playwright William Marley's newest play, COMING OUT (subtitled A Comedy In An Age Of Tragedy), will run May 9, 10, and 11 at 8pm. The play is directed by Rob Howell. There will be a special Preview Performance of COMING OUT on Wednesday, May 8 at 8pm as a benefit for FACT (Fighting AIDS Continuously Together) of the Lehigh Valley. Tickets for the 9, 10, and 11 performances are \$10 and \$5.

For more information and reservations, call the Outlet Box Office at (610) 820-9270.

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APRIL 27
8:00 PM**

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The Oxy-Morons (serious comedians), a local comedy troupe, have been keeping audiences in stitches since 1994. As of this writing, they are scheduled for another appearance at Open Space Gallery, a non-profit community arts center in downtown Allentown, PA.

After their lastousing performance at the Gallery, they're sure to pack the room for their next date scheduled on Saturday, April 27.

You may have seen them before, but you can never be sure what they will do next. The Oxy-Morons' show features a mixture of sketch material, songs and improvisation with lots of audience interaction.

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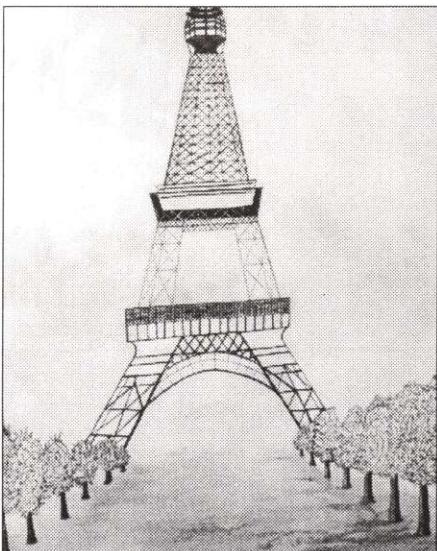
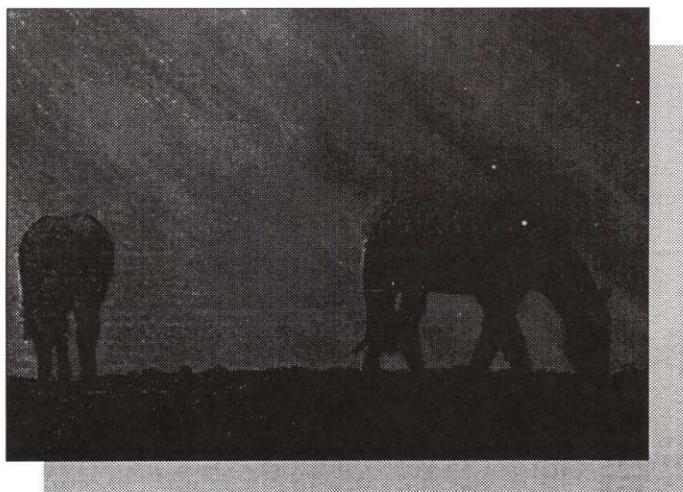
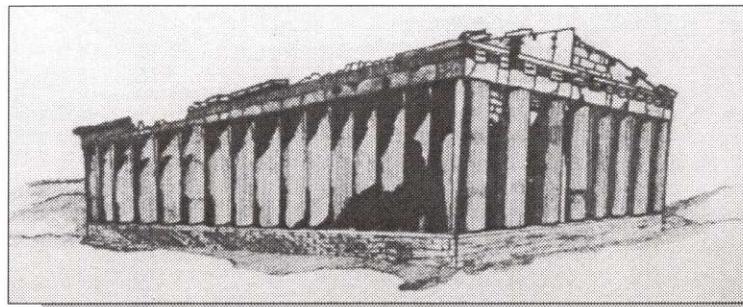
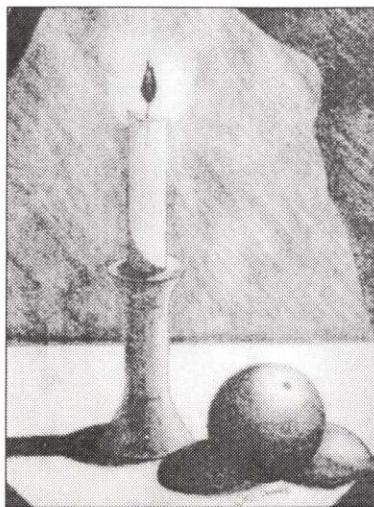
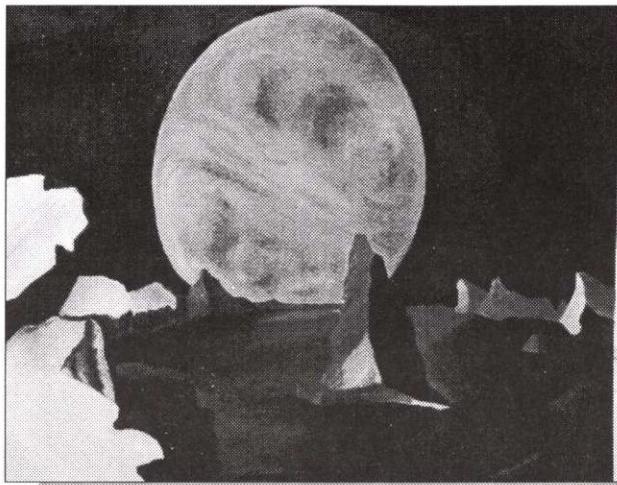


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On Tuesday, April 23rd, people across Pennsylvania will cast their votes in the 1996 Primary Election. Because Pennsylvania scheduled its primary late in the season, our votes really are irrelevant to the selection of the Republican and Democratic Presidential Candidates. Bill Clinton has been unchallenged for the Democratic Nomination, and Bob Dole has secured enough delegates in state primaries so far that he has a lock on the Republican Nomination. However, we as responsible citizens have a duty to show up at our local polling place and cast our ballots. There are other contested primaries where the votes of gay men and lesbians can influence the results, including those for State Row Offices, Congress, and State Representatives.

Even though the Presidential Primary is a foregone conclusion, let's review the records of Bill Clinton and Bob Dole.

The Dole Record:

- Voted to prohibit federal funds from being used to promote homosexuality.
- Voted cap funding for AIDS programs under the Ryan White Care Act at the 1995 level through the year 2000.
- Voted to prevent funding of seminars that "accept homosexuality as a legitimate lifestyle."
- Voted to cut off funding for schools that teach tolerance of homosexuality.

- Voted to require parental consent before children can receive condoms.
- Voted to codify HHS policy that prohibits immigration of HIV+ individuals.
- Opposes lifting of the Military Ban.
- Opposes outlawing discrimination on the Basis of sexual orientation.
- Returned a campaign contribution from the Log Cabin Club, a group of gay and lesbian Republicans.

The Clinton Record:

- Supported the policy of "Don't Ask, Don't Tell", which

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basically rewrote the existing military ban in law.

- Clinton has been the only President who has appointed openly gay and lesbian people to government positions, including Roberta Achtenberg as an Assistant Secretary of Housing and Deborah Batts as a Federal Judge.
- Under the Clinton Administration, every federal agency now has a non-discrimination policy that includes sexual orientation.
- Clinton issued an executive order removing sexual orientation as a barrier to receiving security clearances.
- Clinton endorsed the Employment Non-Discrimination Act, which would prohibit discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation in employment.
- Clinton issued a strong statement condemning anti-gay ballot initiatives, but failed to allow the Justice Department to file a brief before the Supreme Court urging the Court to find Colorado's Amendment 2 unconstitutional.
- Clinton has met with leaders of the gay and lesbian community.
- Clinton has increased federal funding for AIDS programs and has held an AIDS conference at the White House.
- Has formulated a re-election plan that includes gay and lesbian voters.

Looking Ahead to 1996:

Will the gay and lesbian community again support Bill Clinton? Should we? We only have to compare his record with that of Bob Dole. The choice is clear. President Clinton has been the most pro-gay and lesbian president ever. He may have disappointed our community on the military ban issue, but he has supported us in so many other areas. Re-electing President Clinton is vital to the gay and lesbian community's interests. Over the next several months, we must register gay men and lesbians to vote and we must be active in his campaign.

For information on the records and positions of candidates for State Row Offices, Congress and State Representative be to sure to read the Voters' Guide published by the League of Gay and Lesbian Voters.

(Steve Black is an openly gay attorney with an office in Bethlehem, he also serves as Vice Chair of the PA League of Gay and Lesbian Voters.)

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THEY'RE TOO SOFT ON
CRIMINALS. SOMEBODY OUGHTA
DO SOMETHING!

ARE YOU KIDDING!? THEN
I MIGHT GET CALLED FOR
JURY DUTY!

SO WHY DON'T YOU
REGISTER AND VOTE
AGAINST THEM, DAD?

BUT...



APRIL 23rd - PRIMARY ELECTION DAY - VOTE!!

THE DRAGZONE...

WHOAA...LOOK AT
THE BULGE ON
THAT ONE!!!



J. Falleen '96

DRAG QUEEN SHEILA PICKS OUT
BASKETS FOR EASTER....

Horrorscoops

by Evil Esther



AQUARIUS
Jan. 20-Feb.18

What did you say? I didn't hear you...was that a catty remark? Well, you better be careful about where you "spout off", the walls have ears and that offhanded remark may come back to haunt you. Know who your friends are, and guard against speaking before you think.



PISCES
Feb.19-March 20

April Fool's tricks aren't the only things that you have on your mind this month. Just remember that what goes around comes around, and look before you leap into anything this month. Caution must be exercised when dealing with family and work relationships toward the end of the month.



GEMINI
May 21-June 20

Don't think you are out of the woods yet...there is another forest waiting after this clearing, and it is deep and hard to navigate. Trip away this month will help you find the path, but your apathy may well keep you from going down it. Do you want that to happen? Focus on you, and who you can be.



LIBRA
Sept.23-Oct.22

Nature plays important role in your health. Take some time to appreciate it in its many forms. Go for that walk you've been promising yourself, and take pictures with your mind. They will serve to relax you at work, something you desperately need.



CANCER
June 21-July 22

Long journey ends soon. You have made it! Now your future can begin. You have the tools, and you have the knowledge, so go out and use them! Family and friends are very proud of your recent accomplishment, bask in the glow! A much needed pat on the back for you, my friend.



SCORPIO
Oct.23-Nov.21

That person you've been eyeing is too young! You need someone who acts more their age. Didn't you stop baby-sitting after you turned 15? You deserve better (don't we all?), and that person is right under your nose. Have you looked around lately? All is not what it seems.



ARIES
March 21-April 19

Excellent! That recent boost of energy has made you a new person, and it shows! Take the "bull" by the horns and ride, baby, ride. Opportunities for adventure present themselves this month, and that "new you" shouldn't hesitate to try them. Scorpio plays secret role.



LEO
July 23-Aug.22

Do you know how much you are appreciated by that goat in your life? And do you know how much you have touched her life? Your ability to see things clearly has opened eyes and doors. Your passion for things you are involved with will make a difference, don't let small frustrations stop you.



SAGITTARIUS
Nov.22-Dec.21

Water doesn't flow in the direction you need it to this month. Don't worry, though, at least it is flowing! Moon position highlights passion for money, fun. Libra native will surprise you with a gift, don't forget to say "thank you". Return the favor, and your gift will be even better next time.



TAURUS
April 20-May 20

Why have you been a stranger? You need to get out more, people are wondering if you ran away to that tropical island you talk about. Let your friends know you are still alive, you'll thank me later! Solitude is nice, in small doses, but there is no substitute for the love of friends.



VIRGO
Aug.23-Sept.22

Sleeping with the enemy is NOT a good idea. You are not ready for the complicated mess that would ensue. Caution, red flag, DANGER! What seems a quick fix is not even close, and you don't even know the half of it. Maybe staying close to home this month is a good idea, it just might save your love life!



CAPRICORN
Dec.22-Jan.19

Ups and Downs for you this month. Keep your wits about you, don't cave in. Things are going to change, maybe not for the better, you need all the strength you can muster to get through it. Stay close to your true nature and you will find that you were right all along. Hidden traits are revealed about HIM, do you really know him at all?

Community Resources

Bars / Clubs
ALLENTOWN

Candida
247 N. 12th St.
610-434-3071

Stonewall & Moose Lounge
28-30 N. 10th St.
610-432-0215

BETHLEHEM

DiamonZ
1913 W. Broad St.
610-865-1028

HARRISBURG

B-TLS
891 Eisenhower Blvd.
717-939-1123

Neptune Lounge
268 North St.
717-233-3078

Stallions
706 N. 3rd St.
717-232-3060

NEW HOPE
Cartwheel
Route 202
215-862-0880

Raven
385 W. Bridge St.
215-862-2081

READING
Scarab
724 Franklin St.
610-375-7878

WILKES-BARRE
AREA Babes'
1267 Main St.
Port Griffith-Pittston
717-883-7877

Selections
45 Public Square
717-829-4444

AIDS Related Organizations

AIDS Outreach
112 N. 5th St.
Allentown, PA 18102
610-435-8424

AIDS Services Center
60 W. Broad St.
Suite 205
Bethlehem, PA 18108
610-974-8701

Allentown Health Bureau -HIV testing
245 N. 6th St.
Allentown, PA 18102
(contact David Moyer)
610-437-7742

FACT
P.O. Box 1028
Allentown, PA 18105
610-820-5519

FACT Bucks County
P.O. Box 616
Buckingham, PA 18912

Latino AIDS Outreach
610-861-6845

Wyoming Valley AIDS Council
P.O. Box 2677
Wilkes-Barre, PA 18703
717-823-5808

Religious Affiliations

Grace Covenant Fellowship
247 N. 10th St.
Allentown, PA 18102
610-740-0247

Hope Ministries
Rev. Bob J. Forté
610-791-0716
24 hrs.-leave message.

Religious Affiliations (cont.)

Integrity
610-395-1785
610-758-8642

MCC of the Lehigh Valley
Unitarian Universalist Church
424 Center St.
Bethlehem, PA
610-439-8755

Phoenix Ministries, ULC Inc.
Rev. Joél S. Diehl, DD, MsD.
610-433-5325 leave message

Zen Buddhist Sangha
Ongoing meditation meetings
610-559-8136
leave message

Community/Social/Support Organizations

Berks Gay & Lesbian Alliance
P.O. Box 417
Reading, PA 19603-0417
610-373-0674

Gay Men of the Lehigh Valley
Bethlehem, PA
610-439-8755

GLORA
Gays & Lesbians Of
Reading & Allentown
P.O. Box 1952
Allentown, PA 18105

League of Gay & Lesbian Voters
Lehigh Valley Chapter
P.O. Box 20781
Lehigh Valley, PA
18002-0781
610-432-5449

Community/Social/Support Organizations (cont.)

Lehigh Valley Gay & Lesbian Task Force
P.O. Box 20253
Lehigh Valley, PA 18002
610-515-1551

Lehigh Valley Gay Men's Chorus
P.O. Box 20712
Lehigh Valley, PA 18002
610-740-0247
610-821-0578

Lehigh Valley Lesbians
Bethlehem, PA
610-253-5454

North Eastern Pennsylvania TransGender Assoc.
P.O. Box 3694
Easton, PA
18043-3694
610-559-1784

P-Flag
215-368-2473
215-234-4049

PRIDE of the Lehigh Valley
P.O. Box 20804
Lehigh Valley, PA 18002
610-770-6200

Renaissance
Education Assoc., Inc
P.O. Box 2122
Harrisburg, PA 17105-2122
717-780-1578

Velvet Spikers
volleyball-tennis
P.O. Box 21862
Lehigh Valley, PA
18002-1862
610-434-2966

If your organization would like to be listed in AboveGround Magazine, Call (610)821-1321 or write P.O. Box 1656 Allentown, PA 18105-1656

MALE FRIENDS

Lucky to be Healthy / Gay / 52 / Employed. But unlucky to find area Similar / Younger / Spry / GWM for Sincere / True Friendship. Call and learn more about me: A Down-to-Earth GWM who avoids Freeloaders / Bars / Drugs / Fats / Games. Enjoy simple life / Country / Videos / Music / Walks / Romantic, Quiet Times / ++.

610-867-4707 (Bethlehem)

GWM 38 6' 200lbs Seeking Local
GWM 30-40 Years Old for Lasting
Friendship or Monog Relationship.
I Do NOT do Drugs. I Enjoy
Bowling, Swimming, Baseball,
Dining Out, Travelling and Quiet
Times. Call 610-437-1235.
Ask for Bill.

ROOMMATES

SGWF 35 ISO SGWF Age
Unimportant, To Share Apartment
or House, Expenses and Fun
Times. Children OK, I have one.
No Drugs, No Games
Responsible & Serious Minded
Inquiries Only.
Long Term relationship.
610-863-3924

SERVICES

SINGLE? Looking? Where Can You Go To Find Other Active Singles Who Are Passionate About The Outdoors & Nature? Try Your Mailbox! JOIN US. Free Info. Nationwide. NATURAL CONNECTIONS. 800-474-3100 Box 900aq Pomona NY 10970

FOR SALE

Dance away those Winter lbs !!
Dance Tapes for All Partiers!
Over 20 tapes to choose...
...From Classic Disco to House.
Call: DJ CHRIS
For catalog
610-435-9383

FEMALE FRIENDS

SGWF 35 Tired of Being and
Sleeping Alone. I Need TLC. I'll
give TLC to Special SGWF. Age
unimportant. I'm Honest,
Passionate, Caring. I'm Everything
You're Looking for in a Mate. I
Enjoy Quiet Romantic Times,
Cooking, Dining Out and movies.
Children OK. I have one. No
Games. Long Term Relationship
Wanted.
610-863-3924

CLASSIFIED ORDER FORM

male friends female friends help wanted services
 for sale messages roommates wanted pets
 real estate-rent real estate-sale misc other

cost of lines X number of issues =

Anything submitted to AboveGround must be received by the 15th of the month to be published in the following months issue. Anything received after that date will be held over to the next issue.

Name(optional) _____

Mailing Address

Phone(optional)

RATES

1-4	lines	\$ 5.00
5-10	lines	\$10.00
11-15	lines	\$15.00

INSTRUCTIONS

Fill out the boxes at left exactly as you would like your ad to appear. Leave a space between each word. Check the heading you would like to have your ad run under. Calculate the price based on number of lines and send check or money order made payable to "COBALT BLUE" along with form to : AboveGround

ABOVEGROUND
PO Box 1656
Allentown, PA 18105-1656

AboveGround reserves the right to edit ads as needed or to refuse any ad for any reason. You must be 18 or older to place or respond to any ad.

****If you would like a full-issue-copy
of your ad, include \$1.50 for P&H**



SELECTIONS

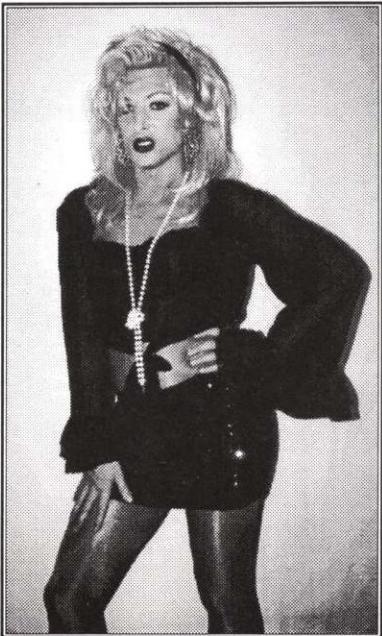
presents:

A Night of Gunshots,



Stabbings and
Screams

(who could ask for more?)



EVA THE DEVIL

is "CLUELESS"
in her

"Murder Mystery Show"

Come help us find out who gets it...and who gets blamed!



Laugh 'til you drop. DEAD.
Friday April 26th - Showtime 11:30 pm
Special appearances to be announced! or be surprised!!



If he's not at **SELECTIONS**, he must be out of town!

PUBLIC SQUARE, WILKES-BARRE (717) 829-4444



SELECTIONS

EVERY THURSDAY IS



8 - 10 Dance Lessons
10 - 2 Wild Buckin' Dance Music

Coors Light bottled beer
on special 'til midnight!

**Beginners classes
starting soon**



Late night menu served 7 - 1

If he's not at **SELECTIONS**, he must be out of town!



PUBLIC SQUARE, WILKES-BARRE (717) 829-4444

EVERYPLACE
ELSE

SUCKS

